



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

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**Contact: Chris Mackey**  
**Office: (919) 733-5612**

**Gov. Perdue Kicks off Jobs Tour of North Carolina, Urges General Assembly  
to Focus on Jobs, Education**

Gov. Perdue today kicked off a two week "Jobs Tour" of businesses and classrooms across North Carolina. Starting with a tour of West Pharmaceuticals, which recently announced a new \$29 million investment in its Kinston plant, she will focus upcoming public appearances on emphasizing her top two priorities: jobs and education.

Gov. Perdue will also continue her work to move North Carolina forward during these two weeks by meeting with citizens, business executives, education leaders and legislators to reinforce North Carolina's commitment to jobs and education in the state's budget.

"This is about getting out of Raleigh and taking the message of jobs and workforce development to the people – people working in our factories and stores, people retraining for a new career in our community colleges or doing research in our universities, people continuing to pull this state out of the global economic recession," said Gov. Perdue. "During this time, I also ask the legislative leadership to focus on the priorities of this legislature – to pass a budget that puts people back to work and ensures that our children have a shot at a brighter future through public education. North Carolina's recovery, our past and our future, are tied together by education and the capacity of our workforce. These must be the two priorities of this general assembly. I ask them to put aside the social agenda and focus on jobs and the budget."

In addition to her tours of businesses and classrooms, the governor will hold two town hall discussions.

Gov. Perdue is scheduled to attend the following upcoming events:

- Tour of West Pharmaceuticals in Kinston (today)
- Business and Education Town Hall in Lenoir County (today)
- Community Outreach Meeting in Whiteville (3/30)
- Tour of Twin Precision Metal Manufacturing in Leland (3/30)
- North Carolina Association of School Administrators Annual Conference (3/31)